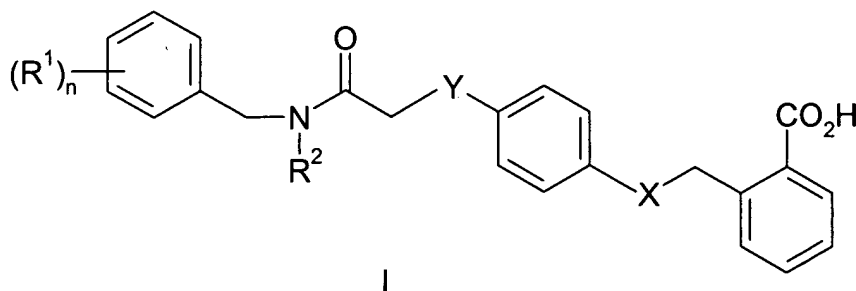


IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (**currently amended**): A compound of formula I



wherein

n is 0, 1 or 2 and

R¹ represents halo, a C₁₋₄alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C₁₋₄alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro and wherein when n is 2 the substituents R¹ may be the same or different;

R² represents a C₂₋₈alkyl group which is optionally interrupted by oxygen;

Y is absent or represents methylene; and

X is O or S;

~~and or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug salts and prodrugs thereof.~~

Claim 2 (**original**): A compound according to claim 1 in which X is O.

Claim 3 (**original**): A compound according to claim 1 in which X is S.

Claim 4 (**currently amended**): A compound according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~ in which Y is methylene.

Claim 5 (**currently amended**): A compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1, 2 or 3~~ in which Y is absent.

Claim 6 (**currently amended**): A compound according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~ in which R¹ is halo, a C₁₋₄alkyl group or a C₁₋₄alkoxy group and n is 0, 1 or 2.

Claim 7 (**currently amended**): A compound according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~ in which R¹ is fluoro, methoxy, or isopropyl when n is 1 or 2.

Claim 8 (**currently amended**): A compound according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~ in which n is 0.

Claim 9 (**currently amended**): A compound according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~ in which R² represents a C₅₋₇alkyl group.

Claim 10 (**currently amended**): A compound selected from:

- 2-[(4-{3-[benzyl(hexyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
- 2-[[4-{2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenyl]thio]methyl}benzoic acid;
- 2-[(4-{2-[benzyl(hexyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
- 2-[(4-{2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
- 2-[(4-{3-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
- 2-[[4-{3-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenyl]thio]methyl}benzoic acid;
- 2-[(4-{3-[butyl(2,3-dimethoxybenzyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
- 2-[(4-{3-[(2,3-dimethoxybenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
- 2-[(4-{3-[(3-ethoxypropyl)(4-isopropylbenzyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid ;
- 2-[(4-{3-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(propyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
- 2-[(4-{2-[ethyl(2-fluorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
- 2-[(4-{3-[ethyl(2-fluorobenzyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
- 2-([4-{2-[ethyl[4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenyl]thio)-methyl]benzoic acid;
- 2-[[4-{2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenyl]thio]methyl}benzoic acid;
- and

2-[[4-{2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)(ethyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenyl]thio]methyl]benzoic acid
~~and or~~ a pharmaceutically acceptable salt-salts thereof.

Claim 11 (**currently amended**): A compound according to claim 2 selected from:

2-[(4-{3-[benzyl(hexyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
 2-[(4-{2-[benzyl(hexyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
 2-[(4-{2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
 2-[(4-{3-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
 2-[(4-{3-[butyl(2,3-dimethoxybenzyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
 2-[(4-{3-[(2,3-dimethoxybenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
 2-[(4-{3-[(3-ethoxypropyl)(4-isopropylbenzyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]-
 benzoic acid ;
 2-[(4-{3-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(propyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
 2-[(4-{2-[ethyl(2-fluorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid; and
 2-[(4-{3-[ethyl(2-fluorobenzyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
~~and or~~ a pharmaceutically acceptable salt-salts thereof.

Claim 12 (**currently amended**): A compound according to claim 3 which is selected from:

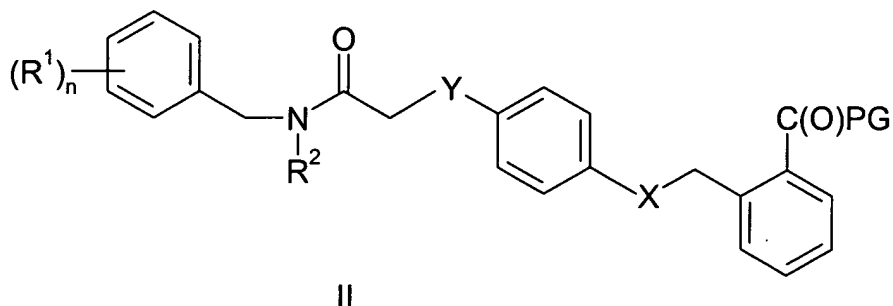
2-[[4-{2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenyl]thio]methyl]benzoic acid;
 2-[[4-{3-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenyl]thio]methyl]benzoic acid;
 2-[[4-{2-[ethyl[4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenyl]thio]methyl]benzoic acid;
 2-[[3-{2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenyl]thio]methyl]benzoic acid;
 and
 2-[[4-{2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)(ethyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenyl]thio]methyl]benzoic acid
~~and or~~ a pharmaceutically acceptable salt-salts thereof.

Claim 13 (**currently amended**): A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to claim 1 or claim 10 ~~any preceding claim~~ in admixture with pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants, diluents and/or carriers.

Claim 14 (**currently amended**): A method of treating or preventing insulin resistance comprising the administration of a compound according to claim 1 or claim 10 ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ to a mammal in need thereof.

Claim 15 (**cancelled**).

Claim 16 (**currently amended**): A process to prepare a compound of formula I as defined in claim 1 comprising reacting a compound of formula II



in which R^1 , n , R^2 , X and Y are as defined in claim 1 ~~previously defined~~ and PG represents a protecting group for a carboxylic hydroxy group with a de-protecting agent.

Claim 17 (**original**): A compound of formula II as described in claim 16.

Claim 18 (**currently amended**): A combination treatment comprising a compound according to claim 1 or claim 10 ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ in combination with another therapeutic agent that is useful in the treatment of disorders associated with the development and progress of atherosclerosis, hypertension, hyperlipidaemias, dyslipidaemias, diabetes and obesity.

Claim 19 (**new**): A compound according to claim 4 in which R¹ is halo, a C₁₋₄alkyl group or a C₁₋₄alkoxy group and n is 1 or 2.

Claim 20 (**new**): A compound according to claim 5 in which R¹ is halo, a C₁₋₄alkyl group or a C₁₋₄alkoxy group and n is 1 or 2.

Claim 21 (**new**): A compound according to claim 4 in which R¹ is fluoro, methoxy, or isopropyl when n is 1 or 2.

Claim 22 (**new**): A compound according to claim 5 in which R¹ is fluoro, methoxy, or isopropyl when n is 1 or 2.

Claim 23 (**new**): A compound according to claim 4 in which n is 0.

Claim 24 (**new**): A compound according to claim 5 in which n is 0.

Claim 25 (**new**): A compound according to claim 3 which is:
2-{[(4-{3-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenyl)thio]methyl}benzoic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 26 (**new**): A compound according to claim 3 which is:
2-({[4-(2-{ethyl[4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)phenyl]thio}-methyl)benzoic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 27 (**new**): A compound according to claim 3 which is:
2-{[(3-{2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenyl)thio]methyl}benzoic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 28 (**new**): A compound according to claim 3 which is:

2-{{(4-{2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)(ethyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenyl)thio}methyl} benzoic acid
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.